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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Runje et al.

Examiner:

Serial No.: 09/728,658

Group Art Unit:

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR SECURE ELECTRONIC DIGITAL RIGHTS
MANAGEMENT, SECURE TRANSACTION MANAGEMENT AND CONTENT
DISTRIBUTION

Filed: December 1, 2000

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The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date subscribed below, with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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Date: _____

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duties imposed by 37 C.F.R. Section 1.56 et seq., the Applicant submits the following information for consideration by the Examiner in connection with the patent application identified above. The Applicant believes that each paragraph below distinguishes the invention described and claimed in the present patent application from the reference described.

Document A: U.S. Patent Number 5,940,504

U.S. Patent Number 5,940,504 discloses a license management system and method for recording the use of a licensed product, and for controlling its use in accordance with the terms of the license. A licensed product invokes a license check monitor at regular time intervals. The monitor generates request datagrams which identify the licensee and the product and sends the request datagrams over a communications facility to a license control system. The license control system maintains a record of the received datagrams, and compares the received datagrams to data stored in its licensee database. Consequently, the license control system transmits reply datagrams with either a denial or an approval message to the monitor. The monitor terminates further use of the product if it receives a denial message. The monitor generates its own denial message if its request datagrams are unanswered after a predetermined interval of time. The datagrams are counted at the control system to provide billing information.

Document A: U.S. Patent Number 5,982,891

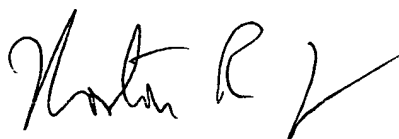
U.S. Patent Number 5,982,891 discloses systems and methods for secure transaction management and electronic rights protection. Electronic appliances such as computers equipped in accordance with the present invention help to ensure that information is accessed and used only in authorized ways, and maintain the integrity, availability, and/or confidentiality of the information. Such electronic appliances provide a distributed virtual distribution environment (VDE) that may enforce a secure chain of handling and control, for example, to control and/or meter or otherwise monitor use of electronically stored or disseminated information. Such a virtual distribution environment may be used to protect rights of various participants in electronic commerce and other electronic or electronic-facilitated transactions. Distributed and other operating systems, environments and architectures, such as, for example, those using tamper-resistant hardware-based processors, may establish security at each node. These techniques may be used to support an all-electronic information distribution, for example, utilizing the "electronic highway."

Document A: U.S. Patent Number 6,052,780

U.S. Patent Number 6,052,780 discloses a mechanism which allows a content provider to encrypt digital information without requiring either a hardware or platform manufacturer or a content consumer to provide support for the specific form of corresponding decryption. This mechanism can be provided in a manner which allows the digital information to be copied easily for back-up purposes and to be transferred easily for distribution, but which should not permit copying of the digital information in decrypted form. In particular, the encrypted digital information is stored as an executable computer program which includes a decryption program that decrypts the encrypted information to provide the desired digital information, upon successful completion of an authorization procedure by the user. In combination with other mechanisms that track distribution, enforce royalty payments and control access to decryption keys, the present invention provides an improved method for identifying and detecting sources of unauthorized copies. Suitable authorization procedures also enable the digital information to be distributed for a limited number of uses and/or users, thus enabling per-use fees to be charged for the digital information.

The Applicant believes that none of the documents identified above discloses the "System and Method for Secure Electronic Digital Rights Management, Secure Transaction Management and Content Distribution" claimed in the present patent application. A copy of the above referenced documents is included with this disclosure statement.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norton R. Townsley", followed by a large checkmark.

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